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Samuel Adams THE TORCHBEARER OF THE REVOLUTION

The Father of the American Revolution

Publicly, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is proud to present the first in a series of programs that will explore the life and legacy of Samuel Adams, one of our nation's most important figures.

"The Patriots of Independence" is the first of a series of programs that will explore the life and legacy of Samuel Adams, one of our nation's most important figures.

Samuel Adams was a revolutionary leader, a statesman, and a patriot. He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

Home Life

- Samuel Adams was born on September 19, 1722, in Boston, Massachusetts.
- He was the second of six children of a wealthy merchant family.
- He was educated at the Boston Latin School and at Harvard University.
- He was a member of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Tea Party.
- He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

The Revolutionary

Samuel Adams was a revolutionary leader, a statesman, and a patriot. He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

He was a member of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Tea Party.

He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

Finding a Cause: The Sugar Act (1764)

Samuel Adams was a revolutionary leader, a statesman, and a patriot. He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

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Stamp Act (1765)

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Sam Adams Takes the Lead

Samuel Adams was a revolutionary leader, a statesman, and a patriot. He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

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Why is he forgotten?

Samuel Adams was a revolutionary leader, a statesman, and a patriot. He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

He was a member of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Tea Party.

He was a man of great vision and courage, and he was a man who was willing to sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

Heather Dudley Class on Samuel Adams, Father of the Revolution, Winter 2026.

January 30, 2026

Editor of the Week: Paul Van Hemel

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Alerts & Notices

- OLLI Mason guest passes are now available in the main office. Grab a stack to hand out in your local communities. Help us encourage others to try our fantastic program!
- Remember to check the [catalog updates list](#) on the OLLI website.
- The next issue of *OLLI E-News* will be published Friday, February 6; the regular deadline for submission of items is Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00.

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OLLI President's Message January 30 2026 OLLI Membership Survey



By Deborah Engleson, President

As you know, the mission of OLLI Mason is to provide quality educational, social and cultural opportunities for those 50 and over. To deliver on that mission, the OLLI Board wants to make sure we're responsive to you, our OLLI members. To that end, we've designed a survey on a wide range of topics directly related to your participation with OLLI – everything from class and event content to timing and delivery. It's completely anonymous (although we hope you'll consider providing your contact info, so we can follow up as needed), and should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete.

You'll be receiving this questionnaire via email soon. We hope that each of you will take the time to let us know your thoughts and ideas about OLLI Mason and how we can improve your OLLI experience. We look forward to sharing your feedback at the OLLI Annual Meeting on May 1st. Thank you!

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George Mason Jazz Festival - Saturday, February 14 (Harris Theatre)



By **Darden Purcell, D.M.A., Mason Director of Jazz Studies, Jazz Voice**

In 2026, the George Mason Jazz Festival headlining act will be [The Airmen of Note](#).

The festival includes:

- Scholarships to the [George Mason Jazz Camp](#), summer 2026
- 3 "Outstanding Soloist" (cash prizes) and
- 4 "Best Section" certificates
- Live performance recordings for band directors
- Written feedback from adjudicators

2026 Adjudicators:

- [Taylor Barnett](#) - trumpeter with the No BS! Brass, director of Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
- [Jim Carroll](#) - saxophonist with Woody Herman Orchestra, founder of Mason Jazz and director of the Mason Jazz Ensemble
- [Stephen Philip Harvey](#) - saxophonist, composer, bandleader, professor at Salisbury University and Youngstown State University

2026 George Mason Jazz Faculty Clinicians:

- Aaron Eckert, trombone, U.S. Army Blues
- Shawn Purcell - guitar, retired U.S. Navy Commodores
- Ben Thomas - bass, U.S.A.F. Airmen of Note
- Kevin McDonald - drums, U.S. Navy Commodores

GEORGE MASON JAZZ FESTIVAL

with special guests **USAF AIRMEN OF NOTE**



FEBRUARY 14, 2026

10 a.m. - 9 p.m., HARRIS THEATRE

Closing Festival Performance at 7 p.m.

George Mason Jazz Ensemble, *director Jim Carroll*

The USAF Band AIRMEN OF NOTE!

go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest



MASON JAZZ FESTIVAL

February 14

10:00 - 9:00 (pm)

Harris Theatre

All concerts are free and open to the public; no tickets are required. **FREE parking in LOT K.**

Website: go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest

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Call for Photos for OLLI Ink 2026

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1. **Call for Photos:** *OLLI Ink*, the literary magazine published each spring, will be accepting **black and white photos for the interior magazine and color photos for the inside back cover** for the 2026 edition beginning now.
2. **Deadline for Submissions:** The submission deadline will be **11:59 (pm) on Friday, February 20**. NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE!
3. **Participants:** OLLI Photo Club (OPC) photographers **may submit up to 5 color photos for the inside back cover, and up to 10 black and white photos for inside pages of the *OLLI Ink* publication**. The placement of each inside photo is determined by the layout editor, depending on space, and **cannot be expected to relate to any specific piece of writing**.
4. **Photo Orientation and Watermark Restriction:** **Color photos** for the front or inside back covers must be in a **portrait orientation**. **Black and white photos** for the interior pages can be in **either a portrait or landscape orientation**. No watermarks are permitted on any photo submissions.
 1. **Selection Process:** **This year, due to time constraints, OLLI volunteers will select the black and white photos. The *OLLI Ink* editorial staff will select the front cover from color photos submitted for the front cover. The **candidate photos will not display the photographers' names to avoid favoritism.****

***FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBMITTING PHOTOS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE of the following: [Margie Wildblood](#) [George Bradshaw](#) or [Sophia Elberti](#). Thank you.

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Spotlight on NOVA Course Series in 2026



By Camille Hodges, OLLI HSS/CE Committee Chair

The Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events (HSS/CE) Program Planning Group plans to continue featuring various communities in NOVA in its upcoming selections of courses. We have previously featured *A Place Called Ilda* (a community in the Annandale/Canterbury Woods area) as well as other notable communities in Fairfax by the authors of *Black Communities of Fairfax: A History*. Courses anticipated are: Falls Church/Tinner Hill, Arlington (Green Valley (Nauck), Arlington View (Johnson's Hill)), Alexandria), and a history of the Fairfax County Courthouse.

If you have the desire to share expertise on historic regions in NOVA, please submit your course proposal using the link <https://olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/>. Ensure that you click

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History Club

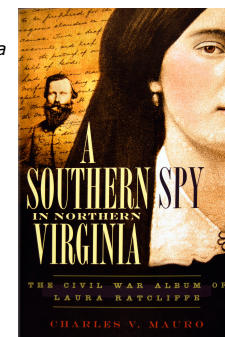


By Doug Snoeyenbos, History Club Coordinator

The History Club will meet on Zoom next Wednesday, February 4, at 4:00. The link will be in the morning daily schedule email.

Our presenter will be author Chuck Mauro, and his presentation will be titled *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*. Laura lived in Herndon and provided information to the Confederates. The album, also used as a guestbook, was given to her by the dashing Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. Stuart also wrote four poems for Laura to help cement her allegiance to the Confederate cause. Chuck will show how Laura's story illustrates the competing considerations that were felt by many Southern sympathizers living in contested or Union-controlled territory.

Chuck is a retired federal employee who has published 15 books, most related to the Civil War. He is a fine storyteller, and this should be an excellent presentation.



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Poet's Corner

Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop

It's Complicated

After enough time for me
to fall out of lust and into love
you said my dark eyes turned
smoky.

I imagined you would be
water in my desert, manna,
potentially shelter in my storms.

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I've been both right
and wrong.

—Carolyn Wyatt

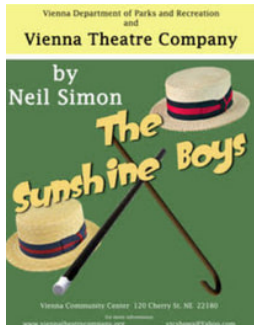
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Enjoy a Little Sunshine and a Quick Trip to the Caribbean with Theater Lovers Group



By Norma Jean Reck, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group

February is special in that it is packed with celebrations from major holidays like Valentine's Day to quirky national days like National Love Your Pet Day to notable events like Super Bowl Sunday. In keeping with the 'special' theme, OLLI's Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) is planning to attend two plays - Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys* and *Once on this Island* - both of which address what is special to the human experience. You are invited to join us.



On Sunday, February 8, TLG will attend the 2pm matinee performance of *The Sunshine Boys*, performed by The Vienna Theatre Company in The Vienna Community Center, located at 120 Cherry Street in Vienna. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased online at viennatheatrecompany.org. The story is based on real life comedians who became estranged after a successful vaudeville career together. The story of their reuniting is told with lots of humor and hilarious one-liners. We will meet for an optional lunch at Carnegie Diner, located at 507 Maple Avenue West at 11:30am. (You will be back home in time for the Super Bowl.)

On Sunday, February 15, TLG will attend the 3pm matinee performance of *Once on this Island*, performed by the City of Fairfax Theater Community at Katherine Johnson Middle School, located at 3801 Jermantown Road in Fairfax. Tickets are \$31.60 and can be purchased online at fairfaxcitytheatre.org. This Caribbean inspired musical is about the unbreakable human spirit and the power of love. We will meet at Luciano's on Chain Bridge Road and Hunter Mill Road in Oakton for an optional lunch at 11:30am.

Feel free to bring a guest or two. We will have separate checks, and there is plenty of free parking at each venue. Just remember to email me Norma at njreck@cs.com to let me know you will be joining us. Everyone is welcome.

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are published unedited, exactly as submitted.



TLG Lunch Bunch at Auld Shebeen



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Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances January 30 through February 8



By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc.

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)

[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)

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music.calendar.gmu.edu/
theater.calendar.gmu.edu/
dance.calendar.gmu.edu
masonexhibitions.org/

and if you miss a live performance, there is a pay-per-view for many:
<https://cfa.gmu.edu/events/paid-digital-performances>. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2468. You can also buy tickets online through the event calendar (see links above) or visit the venue's box office.

Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of information on interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just sign up at [this link](#) to stay in touch. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website, [Mason Arts at Home](#), which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances.

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At the Fairfax Campus venues

Curious George: The Golden Meatball

Sat, Jan 31, 11:00 and 2:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$24.

Homecoming Comedy Headliner Josh Johnson

Thu, Feb 5, 9:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$65, \$55, \$45.

Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble

Sat, Feb 7, 8:00
A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.
Concert Hall
Admission: \$81, \$71, \$55.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: *The Soul of Tango* with Berta Rojas, Guitar

Sat, Feb 7, 8:00
Harris Theatre
Admission: \$75, \$64, \$54.

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: *Poetic Tone Pictures*

Sun, Feb 8, 7:00
Concert Hall
Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

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Fairfax Campus Visual Arts

(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)

The Mirage of Ancient Egypt: Exploring Ancient Egypt's Legacy in Popular Culture

Through February 13, 2026
Fenwick Gallery

The Prescription is Home

January 23 - April 18, 2026
Mason Exhibitions, Arlington Campus

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Mason Student and Faculty Performances

(see music.gmu.edu for additional student recitals)

Mason Cabaret: *Heart and Music, The Songs of William Finn*

Fri, Jan 30, 7:30

Sat, Jan 31, 2:00 and 7:30

Sun, Feb 1, 2:00

Harris Theatre

Admission: \$35 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Guest Recital: Michael Burner, trombone

Mon, Feb 2, 6:30

Music Theater Building, 1023

Admission: Free.

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At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)**Mason Cabaret: *Heart and Music, The Songs of William Finn***

Fri, Feb 6, 7:30

Gregory Family Theater

Admission: \$35 Adult, \$19 Senior.

Cirque Mechanics

Sat, Feb 7, 2:00 and 8:00

A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras:***Harp Ensemble, Concert Orchestra and Symphonic Orchestra in Concert***

Sun, Feb 8, 3:00

Merchant Hall

Admission: \$14.

Visual Arts: OFFERINGS TO THE POTOMAC**ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS PLACE**

February 24 - May 15, 2026

Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Manassas Campus

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For further details on any of the above events, see the [CFA Event Calendar](#) and the [Hylton Center event calendar](#).

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Meetings & Clubs

Please note: OLLI Meetings and Clubs may currently take place in several formats: some are in person only, some are online only, and some are hybrid, meaning that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their course or event number (except clubs; you may need to check the [OLLI calendar](#) and daily schedule email for location and other event information).

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week. *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors,*

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼	RS
Sat Jan 31	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon Feb 2	9:30 am 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Feb 3	2:00 pm 3:45 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Caregivers Support Group – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Feb 4	11:50 am 11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Literary Roundtable – online Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Dabbling Artists Club – online Memoir and More Writing Group – online History Club – online Spanish Club – online	
Thu Feb 5	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online Ethnic Eats Club – online	
Fri Feb 6	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 noon 2:00 pm	Crafts and Conversation Mah Jongg Club Homer, etc. – online Chair Yoga and More – online Classic Literature Club – online	
Sat Feb 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	
Mon Feb 9	9:30 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	What's in the Daily News? – online Family History/Genealogy Club – online Chair Yoga and More – online	
Tue Feb 10	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:30 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online Mah Jongg Club – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Wed Feb 11	11:50 am 11:50 am 12:00 noon 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 4:00 pm	Investment Forum Literary Roundtable – online Chair Yoga and More – online Board Game Club Bridge Club Spanish Page Turner Club – online	
Thu Feb 12	11:50 am 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	All the News Chair Yoga and More – online Tai Chi Club – online	
Fri Feb 13	9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Photography Club Crafts and Conversation Homer, etc. Cooking Club	

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	2:30 pm 4:00 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online French Conversation and Happy Hour – online	
Sat Feb 14	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online	

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About *OLLI E-News*

OLLI E-News was created by Rod Zumbro, who served as its editor from 2005 to 2013.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editors: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi

Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, Chitra Mohla, John Nash, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas Appich, Martha Kossoff, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

Submissions: Members are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (on etiquette matters), OLLI-related news items, articles, and photos. Submit material to: ollienewseditor@gmail.com.

Deadline: Tuesday, 6:00, for that week's issue (Monday, 6:00, for letters to the editor); early submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words.

Note: You can view past issues of *OLLI E-News* on the DocStore. To search the content of issues, use Search Our Site or put your search term in Google followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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